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THE CHAR—OR SALMO ALPINUS.

Some years ago it was not suspected, nor is it yet generally believed, that the char is an inhabitant of most of the mountain lakes of Ireland. Dr. Smith was the first to notice its existence in two of the small lakes in the Cumberagh mountains, in the county of Waterford, one of which we have given a view of in our present number. He describes the char of these lakes as about two feet long, the male grey, and the female yellow-bellied; and the flesh, he adds, is as red and curdy as a salmon, and eats more delicious than any trout. Notwithstanding this account of Dr. Smith, the great traveller and naturalist, Pennant, did not believe in its existence in Ireland, a circumstance the more extraordinary, considering that he made a tour, as he says, in "that hospitable kingdom, and travelled from Dublin to Ballycastle, the Giant's Causeway, Coleraine, the extremity of the county of Donegal, Londonderry, Strabane, Enniskillen, Galway, Limerick, the Lakes of Killarney, Kinsale, Cork, Cashel, Waterford, Kilkenny, and Dublin." But the mystery of his ignorance is explained by himself. "Such," he states, "was the conviviality of the country, that my journey proved as *maigre*, as my entertainment was *gras*, so it never was a dish fit to be offered to the public."

The char was next stated to be found in one of the lakes of Donegal—Lough Esk—by Mr. Wilson, the author of the *Irish Post-Chaise Companion*. He describes it as a most delicate fish, and generally about nine inches long. He adds, that they are not to be caught by bait, but feeding in deep water, are only taken in nets.

Their existence in Ireland was at length put beyond dispute by the celebrated naturalist, the late Mr. Templeton, of Belfast, who, in an able article addressed to the author of the Antrim Survey, established the facts of their being found in Lough Eglis, in Fermanagh, and Lough Neagh, and of their identity with the char of Windermere and Wales. Of the examples which fell under his observation, he gives the following account:—

"They are generally about twelve inches long, though I have seen one of fifteen.

The nostrils double.

Teeth in the jaws, roof of the mouth, and on the tongue.

Back, dusky brown; sides, pale reddish brown, with small spots of bright bay; bellies white, with a tinge of reddish.

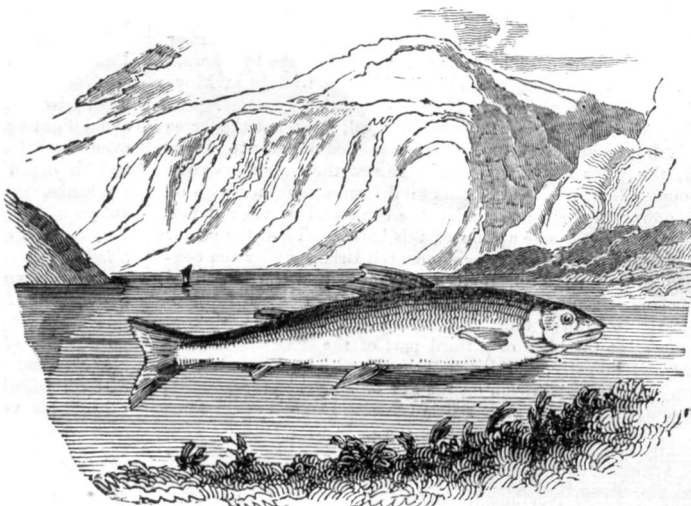
First dorsal fin 11 rayed.

Second very small.

Pectoral 11 rayed. } The first complete ray of each strong
Ventral and anal 8. } and white."

The char was next noticed as existing in Lough Dan, one of the Wicklow lakes, by Wright, in his Guide to that County; but he states that their existence in any of the other lakes of that county, is not known. The fact, however, is well known to sportsmen of their being found in Luggelaw and the lakes of Glandalough, in which, however, their greatest size does not exceed seven inches.

Both Pennant, Wilson, and Templeton, erred in supposing that the char could only be taken by nets, in consequence of the deep water which they inhabit. They are sometimes taken in shallow water, and both with fly and minnow, in the county of Wicklow, and latterly at Coniston-Water, in Cumberland,—



Char, with View of Lough Dan.

a mode introduced there from Ireland by an Irish gentleman: the fly should be small and of a gaudy colour.

"The char," says Sir Humphrey Davy, "is always in its colour a very brilliant fish, but in different countries there are many varieties in the tint." Those of the Wicklow lakes are of a bluish black on the back, and on the belly, silvery, with a slight tinge of red—the pectoral fins of a decided red.

It is a curious and interesting fact that, the char of Lough Dan have been found during this summer in great quantities on the surface of the lake, dead or dying. P.

THE BATTLE OF CLONTARF.

The following account of the battle of Clontarf, is translated chiefly from an ancient Irish MS. entitled *Cath Chluana Tarbh*, corrected, however, in many parts from the Annals of Innisfallen and Ulster, especially in the list of the chieftains who fell in that remarkable combat. The account of the deaths of Brian and Morogh is translated literally from the original Irish, as given by Mr. Hardiman in his *Irish Minstrelsy*, vol. II. p. 361. As the popular and generally received accounts of an event of so great importance in Irish history, these translations will, doubtless, prove interesting to the Irish reader; but it must be confessed that in some of the details there appears even an excessive allowance of exaggeration:—

It is said that towards the end of Brian Borumha's reign Ireland flourished in all earthly blessings; and that so strictly were the laws obeyed that, as we are informed by Mac Liag, chief antiquary of Ireland in Brian's time, a lady might travel unattended from *Tonn Chliodhna* to *Tonn Tuaithe* (i. e. from one extremity of Ireland to the other) with a gold ring on the top of a wand without being robbed or molested. No Danes were left in the kingdom, but such a number of artisans and merchants in Dublin, Waterford, Wexford, Cork and Limerick, as he knew could be easily mastered at any time, should they dare to rebel, and these he very wisely (as he thought) permitted to remain in those seaport towns for the purpose of encouraging trade and traffic, as they possessed many ships and were experienced sailors.

But such prosperity was of short continuance: Maelmordha, who usurped the crown of Leinster in 999, by the assistance of the Danes, being at an entertainment at *Kincora*, saw Morogh, Brian's eldest son at a game of chess, and advised his antagonist to a movement which lost Morogh the game; whereupon Morogh observed to him with a sneer, *that if he had given as good advice at the battle of Glen-mama, the Danes would not have received so great an overthrow.*

To which Maelmordha replied: "my instructions the next time shall guide them to victory," and Morogh with contempt bade defiance. Maelmordha became enraged, retired to his bed chamber, and did not appear at the banquet, but passed the night in restless anger, and ruminating his country's ruin. Early next morning he set out for Leinster, without taking his leave of the monarch, or any of his household, to shew that he was bent upon desperate revenge. The good monarch on hearing of his departure, sent one of his servants after him to request his reconciliation with Morogh; the servant overtook him east of the Shannon not far from Killaloe and delivered his message from the monarch. Maelmordha, who all the while listened with indignation, as soon as the servant was done speaking, raised the rod of yew which he had in his hand, and with three furious blows thereof fractured the servant's skull, to make known to Brian how he rejected such reconciliation. He pursued his way on horseback to Leinster, where the next day, he assembled his nobles, represented to them the insult he received at Kincora, and inflamed them to so great a degree that they renounced their allegiance to Brian, confederated with the Danes, and sent the monarch defiance.

Emissaries were sent to Denmark and Norway. The Danes of Normandy, Britain, and the Isles joyfully entered into the confederacy, pleased at the prospect of once more gaining possessions in this land *flowing with milk and honey*.*

The king of Denmark sent his two sons, *Carolus Kanutus* and *Andreas*, at the head of twelve thousand men, who landed safely in Dublin, and were kindly received and refreshed by Maelmordha. Troops now daily poured into the different parts of Leinster, from Sweden, Norway, Normandy, Britain, the Orkneys and every other northern settlement. The king of Leinster was also indefatigable, not only in raising new levies but in labouring to detach different princes from the interest of their country. Never were such efforts made by the Danes as upon this occasion; the best men were every where pitched upon for this service. Among others Broder and Anrud, two Norwegian princes, landed at the head of one thousand choice troops covered with coats of mail.†

The king of Leinster being now animated by the number of his auxiliaries, without longer delay bid defiance by a herald to the monarch Brian, and challenged him to fight at Moynealta a spacious plain near Dublin now called Clontarf.

Brian Borumha, with all possible speed, mustered the forces of Munster and Connaught, and marched directly to Clontarf, the place appointed, and there saw the enemy prepared to oppose him, viz. sixteen thousand Danes, together with all the power of Leinster, under the command of their King, Maelmordha, the sole author of this battle. Then the power of Meath came in to aid their monarch Brian, under the conduct of Maelseaghlain, their King, who, however, intended to betray Brian. For this purpose he sent to the King of Leinster to inform him, that Brian had dispatched his son, Donogh, at the head of a third part of the Eugénian forces to ravage Leinster, and that he himself, with his 1,000 Meathmen, would desert Brian on the day of battle. Accordingly, it was determined to attack Brian before Donogh could come up. He was then encamped on the plain near Dublin, with a smaller army than he otherwise should have had. His opponents formed themselves into three divisions; the first, consisting of 1,000 Northmen, covered with coats of mail from head to foot, and commanded by Carolus and Anrud, two Norwegian princes, and of the Danes of Dublin, under Dolat and Conmael. The second division consisted of Lagenians, about 9,000 strong, commanded by their king, Maelmordha Mac Morogh, and under him by several minor princes, such as Mac Tuathal or Toole, of the Liffey territory, the prince of Hy-Falg, (Ophaly) together with a large body of the Danes. The third division was formed of the Northmen, collected from the islands, from Scotland, &c. It was commanded by Loder, Earl of the Orkneys, and Broder, Admiral of the fleet, which had brought the auxiliary Northmen to Ireland. Brian was not dismayed by this mighty force, and depending on Providence and the bravery of his troops, prepared for battle, dividing his army likewise into three divisions; one to oppose the enemy's first division, under his son Morogh, who had along with him his son Torlogh, and a select body of the brave Dalassians, besides four other sons of Brian, Teige, Donald, Connor, and Flan, and various chieftains, Donchuan, Lonagan, Cellocar, Fiongallach and Jonrachtach, and the three chiefs of Teffia, &c., together with a body of men from Conmaine-mara, a western part of Connaught, under Caruan, their chief. To this division Maelseachlain was ordered to join his followers. Over the division which was to fight the second of the enemy, Brian placed Kian and Donald, two princes of the Eugénian line, under whom were the forces of Desmond, and other parts of the south of Ireland, viz. Mothla, son of Faelan, King of the Desies; Murtogh, son of Anmchadha, Lord of Hy Liathian; Scanlan, son of Cathal, Chief of Eoganacht of Lough Lein; Cathal, the son of Donovan, Lord of Hy-Cairbre Eabha

and Loingseach O'Dowling, Chief of Hy-Conall Gaura; the son of Beothach, King of Kerry-Luachra; Geibbionach, the son of Dubhagan, Chief of Fermoy. To this division also belonged O'Carroll, and his troops of Ely O'Carroll, and it was joined by another O'Carroll, prince of Oriel, in Ulster, and Maguire, Prince of Fermanagh. The division opposed to the third of their antagonists, consisted chiefly of Connacians, commanded by Teige O'Connor, as Chief, under whom were Mulroney O'Heyne, Chief of Aidhne; Teige O'Kelly, King of Hy-maine; O'Flaherty, King of Muintir Murchadha; Connor O'Mulroney, Chief of Moylurg; Hugh Guineagh O'Doyle, and Fogartagh, the son of Donall, two Chiefs of Ely; Murtogh, the son of Core, Chief of Muscraigh-Cuire; and Hugh, the son of Loughlin, Chief of Hy-Cuanach; Donall, the son of Dermot, Chief of Corca-Baisgin; Donogh, the son of Cathal, Chief of Muscraigh Aedha; Ectigerna, the son of Donegan, King of Ara.

The Northmen who had arrived under Broder at Dublin on Palm Sunday, A.D. 1014, insisted on the battle being fought on Good Friday, which fell on the 23d of April, a day, on which, by reason of its sanctity, Brian would have wished to avoid fighting.* Yet he was determined to defend himself even on that day, and holding the crucifix in his left hand, and his sword in the right, rode with his son Morogh through the ranks, and addressed them as follows, as we read in the annals of Innisfallen under the year 1014.

"Be not dismayed because that my son Donogh, with the third part of the Mononian forces is absent from you, for they are plundering Leinster and the Danish territories. Long have the men of Ireland groaned under the tyranny of these sea-faring pirates! the murderers of your kings and chieftains—plunderers of your fortresses!—profane destroyers of the churches and monasteries of God! who have trampled upon and committed to the flames the relics of his saints! (and raising his voice,) "May the Almighty God, through his great mercy, give you strength and courage this day, to put an end for ever to the Lochlunian tyranny in Ireland, and to revenge upon them their many perfidies, and their profanations of the sacred edifices dedicated to his worship, this day, on which Jesus Christ himself suffered death for your redemption." So saying, (continue the annals) "He shewed them the symbol of the bloody sacrifice in his left hand, and his golden hilted sword in his right, declaring that he was willing to lose his life in so just and honourable a cause." And he proceeded towards the centre to lead on his troops to action; but the chiefs of the army with one voice, requested he would retire from the field of battle on account of his great age, and leave to his eldest son Morogh the chief command.

At sunrise in the morning the signal for battle was given, but at this very critical moment, Maelseachlain finding an opportunity of being in some measure revenged of Brian, retired suddenly from the scene of action with his 1000 Meathmen, and remained an inactive spectator during the whole time of the battle, without joining either side.

This defection certainly rendered the division of the monarch's army very unequal in numbers to that of the enemy's, which they were appointed to engage with. But Morogh, with great presence of mind, cried out to his brave Dalassians, "that this was the time to distinguish themselves, as they alone would have the unrivalled glory of cutting off that formidable body of the enemy."

And now whilst the Dalassians were closely engaged with battle-axe, sword, and dagger, the second division, under the command of the King of Connaught, hasten to engage the Danes of Leinster and their insular levies, whilst the troops of South Munster attacked Maelmordha and his degenerate Lagenians. Never was greater intrepidity, perseverance, or animosity displayed in any other battle than in this; as every thing depended on open force, and courage. The situation of the ground admitted of no ambuscades, and none were used; they fought man to man, and breast to breast, and the victors in one rank fell victims in the next. The commanders on both sides performed prodigies of valour; Morogh, his son Torlogh, his brethren and kindred, flew from place to place, and every where left the sanguinary traces of their courage. The slaughter committed by Morogh, excited the fury of Carolus and Conmael, two Danes of distinction; they attacked him in conjunction, and both fell by his sword. Sitric, the son of Loder, observed that Morogh and other

* In the Chronicle of Ademar Monk of Epharchius of Angouleme, there is a curious passage relative to the views of the Northmen at that time, in which it is stated that they came with an immense fleet, meaning to extinguish the Irish, and to get possession of that most wealthy country which had twelve cities, great Bishopricks, &c.

† *His temporibus Normanni supradicti, cum innumera classe Hiberniam insulam, qua Irlanda dicitur, ingressi sunt una cum uxoribus et liberis, "sc. ut Irlandis extinctis ipsi pro ipsis inhabitarent opulentissimam terram quæ xii civitates cum amplissimis Episcopatibus et unum regem habet. ac propriam linguam sed Latinæ literas, quam Sanctus Patricius Romanus ad fidem convertit."*

Labbé thinks that this Chronicle was written before 1031.

† Annals of the four Masters.

‡ Annals of Innisfallen.

* The Niala Saga states that Broder had been informed by a sort of pagan oracle, that should the battle be fought on Good Friday, the Northmen would be victorious.

chiefs retired from the battle more than twice, and after each return seemed to be possessed of double vigour. It was to quench their thirst, and cool their hands, swelled from the violent use of the sword and battle-axe, in an adjoining well, over which a guard of twelve men were placed; this the Danes soon destroyed.*

On rejoining his troops the last time, Sitric, the son of Loder, with a body of Danes, was making a fresh attack on the Dulcassians, and him Morogh singled out, and with a blow of his battle-axe divided his body in two, through his armour!† The other Irish commanders in like manner distinguished themselves, though their exploits are not so particularly narrated; and it would seem from the number of prime quality that fell on both sides, that the chiefs every where attacked each other in single combat.

The issue of the day remained doubtful, until near four o'clock in the afternoon, and then it was that the Irish made so general an attack on the enemy, that its force was not to be resisted. Destitute of leaders, and consequently in disorder, the Danes gave way on every side. Morogh, at this time, through the violent exertion of his right arm, had both hand and arm so swelled and pained as to be unable to lift them up. In this condition he was attacked by Anruth, the son of Ebhric, but Morogh closing in upon him, seized him with the left hand, shook him out of his coat of mail, and prostrating him, pierced him with his sword by leaning with his breast upon it, and pressing upon it with the weight of his body. In this dying situation of Anruth, he nevertheless seized the *skeine* (*scimitar*) which hung by Morogh's side, and with it gave him at the same instant, a mortal wound! The Dane expired on the spot; but Morogh lived until next morning, when he made his confession and received the sacrament.

The confusion became general through the Danish army, and they fled on every side. Laidin, the servant of Brian, observing the confusion, feared that the imperial army was defeated. He hastily entered the tent of Brian, who was on his knees before a crucifix, and requested that he would immediately take a horse and fly. "No," says Brian; "it was to conquer or die I came here; but do you and my other attendants take my horses to Armagh, and communicate my Will to the successor of St. Patrick—that I bequeath my soul to God, my body to Armagh, and my blessing to my son Donogh; give 200 cows to Armagh, along with my body; and go directly to Swords of Columbkille, and order them to come for my body to-morrow, and conduct it to Duleek of St. Kieran, and let them convey it to Louth, whither let Maelmurry, the son of Eochy Comharb of St. Patrick come with the family of Armagh, and convey it to their Cathedral."

"People are coming towards us," says the servant. "What sort of people are they," says Brian? "Green, naked people," says the servant. "They are the Danes in armour," says Brian, and he rose from his pillow, seized his sword, and stood to await the approach of Broder and some of his followers; and he saw no part of him without armour except his eyes and his feet. Brian raised his hand and gave him a blow with which he cut off his left leg from the knee, and the right from the ankle, but Broder's axe met the head of Brian, and fractured it; Brian, however, with all the fury of a dying warrior, beheaded Broder, and killed a second Dane by whom he was attacked, and then gave up the ghost.‡

From the vast number of chiefs who fell we may form some idea of the carnage on both sides. On the monarch's side, besides himself, were slain Morogh with two of his brothers, and his grandson Turlogh; his nephew Conang; the chiefs of Corca Baisgin, of Fermoy, of Coonagh, of Kerry-Luachra, of Eoganacht Locha Lein, of Hy-Conaill-Gabhra, of Hy-Neachach Mumhan, of the Desies, &c. fell in this battle;

* MS. account of the battle of Clontarf.

† Annals of Innisfallen. Of the great havoc which the Irish committed with the battle-axe, Giraldus Cambrensis thus speaks in the reign of King John:

"They hold the axe with one hand, not with both, the thumb being stretched along the handle and directing the blow; from which neither the helmet erected into a cone can defend the head, nor the iron mail the rest of the body. Whence it happens in our times that the whole thigh (coxa) of a soldier, though ever so well cased in iron mail, is cut off by one blow of the axe, the thigh and the leg falling on one side of the horse, and the dying body on the other."

‡ Translated from the original as given by Mr. Hardiman from the *Leabhar Oiris*.

as did the Connaught princes O'Kelly of Hy-maine, O'Heyne and many others.

The Great Stewards of Leamhna (Lennox) and Mar, with other brave Albanian Scots, the descendants of Core, king of Munster,* died in the same cause.

On the side of the enemy there fell Macmordha, the cause of all this blood, with the princes of Hy Faile (Ophaly) of Magh-Liffe, and almost all the chiefs of Leinster, with 30,000 of their bravest troops. Of the Danes, besides their principal officers, there fell 14,000 men. The 1000 men that wore coats of mail are said to have been all cut to pieces.

The Danes were routed and pursued to their ships, and as far as the gates of Dublin. The surviving foreigners took an eternal farewell of the country; and the Irish Danes returned to Dublin.

That this was a real and great victory is attested in the annals of Innisfallen under the year 1014, as also in the annals of the Four Masters and of Ulster. Yet Sir James Ware in his antiquities of Ireland, chap. 24, has some doubts on this point, as if towards the end, the Danes became uppermost. But the Scandinavian account of this sanguinary battle, (which was long after famous throughout Europe) is sufficient to remove this doubt. The *Niala Saga* in Johnstone's *Ant. Celto-Scand.* has a curious account of this battle in which the Northmen are represented as flying in all directions, and large parties of them totally destroyed. And in the chronicle of Ademar, Monk of St. Eparchius of Angouleme, this battle is represented as even greater than it really was, for it is said that all the Northmen were killed, and it is added that crowds of their women threw themselves into the sea. Yet it is true, that of some of their divisions not a man was left alive. Ademar makes the battle last for three days, but this does not agree with other accounts.

In the *Niala Saga* above mentioned, a northern prince is introduced as asking some time after the battle, what had become of his men. The answer was, that they were all killed. This seems to allude to the division in coats of mail, which, as we are told in the annals of Innisfallen, were all cut to pieces!

The body of Brian, according to his will, was conveyed to Armagh. First the clergy of Swords, in solemn procession, brought it to their abbey, from thence the next morning, the clergy of Damhliag (Duleek) conducted it to the church of St. Kieran. Here the clergy of Louth (Lughmagh) attended the corpse to their own monastery. The archbishop of Armagh with his suffragans and clergy, received the body at Louth, whence it was conveyed to their cathedral. For twelve days and nights it was watched by the clergy, during which time there was a continued scene of prayers and devotions; and then it was interred with great funeral pomp, at the north side of the altar of the great church. The body of Morogh with the heads of Conang and Faélan, prince of the Desies, were deposited in the south aisle of that church; but his grandson Turlogh, and most of the other chiefs, were interred at the monastery of Kilmainham.

Donogh, after having plundered Leinster, arrived at Kilmainham, on the evening of Easter Sunday, with the great spoil of Leinster, where he met his brother Teige, Kian, the son of Molloy, and all that survived the battle both sound and wounded; and he sent many presents and offerings to the Comharb of St. Patrick.

Malachy (who resumed the monarchy of Ireland after the fall of Brian,) having been requested by the Clan Colman to describe the battle, thus proceeds:—

"It is impossible for human language to describe it, an angel from heaven only, could give a correct idea of the terrors of that day! We retired to the distance of a fallow field from the combatants, the high wind of the Spring blowing from them towards us. And we were no longer than half an hour there, when neither of the two armies could discern each other, nor could one know his father or brother, even though he were the next to him, unless he could recognize his voice, or know the spot on which he stood, and we were covered all over, both faces, arms, heads, hair, and clothes with red drops of blood, borne from them on the wings of the wind! And should we attempt to assist them we could not, for our arms were entangled with the locks

* Keating. These Scotchmen (*Albanians*) well knew that they were descended from the Irish. It is to be remarked that at this time the Scots of North Britain had their genuine pedigrees and history, which were many centuries after this period, destroyed by the *Long-shanked* King of England.

of their hair, which were cut off by the swords, and blown towards us by the wind, so that we were all the time engaged in disentangling our arms. And it was wonderful that those who were in the battle could endure such horror without becoming distracted. And they fought from sunrise until the dusk of the evening, when the full tide carried the ships away."

JOHN O'DONOVAN.

SMALL FEET OF THE CHINESE WOMEN.

One of the many strange things which attract the attention of a foreigner in China is the small feet of the females, or rather I should say their deformed lower extremities, for their feet would be like those of other nations, if they were not, shortly after birth, put into metal boots or socks, which are kept on to prevent their growth, and under this cruel torture, although in an earlier stage of life, as many fall a sacrifice as in our own country to tight lacing of the waist. The extremities thus treated lose all resemblance of a human foot, although something like a shoe is put on it. The writer brought one home with him which would fit a foot nearly four inches long, and this is the shoe of an adult. Similar ones may be seen in the Dublin Society House. Their ancles become like those of some of our dear country-women, who have the good taste to conceal them with long petticoats, but the Chinese ladies cannot walk so well as they do, and can only be said to hobble along; as a man does who goes on two wooden legs. All the Chinese women undergo this process, except that class which correspond in rank with our basket women, and those who live almost entirely in boats on the lakes and rivers; together with the Tartar females who belong to the highest class of society, and have not yet adopted this custom of the people whom they have conquered.

The writer asked an intelligent Chinese what was the reason for this practice, to which he replied, that it was for the purpose of making them stay at home, just as we would talk of clipping the tails and wings of our domestic poultry for the same object—and perhaps we could not give as satisfactory an answer in defence of some of our own customs, for instance, how could we defend to a Chinese the practice of putting flour on the heads of our lawyers and judges, instead of making bread of it, as he would do; or the tight lacing of our ladies' waists, in defiance of health and beauty, attempting to improve the shape of the human form divine, "as if one of nature's journeymen had made them—badly." Or how defend the preposterous custom of removing from the chins of one sex, that which distinguishes their face from the other, as if they were ashamed of their manhood. In short we may class together the small feet of the Chinese, the hair-powdered shaved European, with all his pretensions to civilization, his spider-waisted wife, the flat nosed inhabitant of New Zealand, and the tattooed North American Indian with a feather in his nose, as specimens of absurdity capable of no rational defence. The Chinese females, unlike those of most other Eastern nations, are not closely confined to the house, but are permitted to hobble about with the assistance of a stick; the state of their feet, however, prevents them from gadding much about. F.

SALT.

This most useful substance is found in various parts of the Globe, especially in Poland, Hungary, Spain, and England. In the province of Valencia in Spain, there is a mountain of salt, called Cardona, five hundred feet high, and nearly three miles in circumference. The salt mines near Cracow in Poland, which have been worked ever since the middle of the thirteenth century, are computed still to contain salt enough to supply the world many thousand years.

The principal repository of salt is the ocean, whence, in general, we are supplied with this useful article, which is separated from the salt-water by evaporation.

The following is a brief account of the mode of evaporating sea-water, for the production of salt, in different countries:

In the South of France large trenches are cut near the sea, which fill with sea-water at high tide; the water being confined in these by flood-gates, the sun evaporates it,

and the salt remains in the trenches, whence it is laid up to dry for use.

On the coast of Syria, the rocks on the shore have been excavated into salt-pans, two or three yards long: these being filled with sea-water, the aqueous part evaporates, and a large quantity of salt gradually forms at the bottom.

At some places in Cheshire, they saturate the brine with rock-salt, previous to its being evaporated in boilers. One hundred tons of this saturated solution produces about twenty-three tons of salt.

In the Landgrave of Thuringia, a new method has been adopted in the manufacture of salt. A number of wooden vessels are placed firm on posts, six feet from the ground, which may be covered or uncovered in an instant by a moveable roof, according as the weather is dry or rainy: these vessels being filled with sea-water, the process of evaporation takes place merely by the heat of the sun. Salt thus produced, is much purer than that procured by evaporation in boilers. Indeed the salt of commerce is always impure: there are generally combined with it portions of earthy salts and other adventitious substances. The Cheshire salt is of much greater purity than any of the several kinds imported from France and elsewhere.

To dilate on the various uses of this most indispensable substance, is quite needless, as there are few persons to whom the almost general use of it in our manufactures, domestic processes, &c. is unknown, still there are some purposes to which it might be applied more generally than it commonly is, especially in agriculture, in which, as an article of manure, it is of invaluable efficacy. However, by a superabundant use, it may produce a contrary effect, and actually render land sterile. In pasture land, no more than from one to six bushels per acre ought ever be used.

The inhabitants of the coasts of Hindostan and China sprinkle their rice fields with sea-water, using no other manure: in the interior of these countries, they sprinkle the land with salt before it is tilled; and this practice has been followed for ages with the most beneficial results.

In the feeding of cattle, salt is very advantageous; horses are very fond of it; and cows universally give more milk when supplied with it. There are some persons in the city, who, during the summer months, avail themselves of the advantage of feeding cows with grains preserved with salt; and these cows never fail of continuing to give milk in the greatest abundance, whilst supplied with such food. Dr. Mitchell relates, that in the back settlements of America, wherever salt abounds, the wild beasts of the forests assemble to regale themselves; and these places (called by the natives Licks) are so much frequented by them, that the ground is actually trodden to mud.

Another very useful purpose to which salt is applied, is the glazing of stone-ware. This mode of glazing was first introduced from Holland into England in 1700, since which time it has been used in these countries with invariable success. The wholesomeness of this glaze, in articles intended for domestic purposes, is so obvious that it needs no comment. M. O'K.

POTATOES.

GERARD, an old herbalist, thus speaks of them, in 1597. "Potatoes grow in India, and other hotter regions; of which I planted divers roots, (that I bought at the Exchange in London) in my garden, where they flourished until winter, at which time they perished and rotted." Speaking of the mode of cooking this exotic he says, "They were roasted in the ashes; and some when they be so roasted, infuse them and sop them in wine; and others, to give them the greater grace in eating, do boil them with prunes, and so eat them. And likewise others dresse them (being first roasted) with oil, vinegar, and salt, and every man according to his taste and liking." It was little imagined then that they would become so valued an article in the British dominions, and latterly on the continent of Europe.

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